



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY &
UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Councilor David Hartnett, Chair WARD 4
Councilor Maxwell Tracy, WARD 2
Councilor William “Chip” Mason, WARD 5

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 5:00 – 7:30 PM

City Hall, Assessor’s Conference Room

–MINUTES–

Members present: Chair, David Hartnett
Maxwell Tracy
Chip Mason

Others present: Noted Below

Chair Hartnett called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

1. Agenda
Move up Item #5 Tar Sands to Item #4 and switch Item #4 Sovereign Agreement to Item #5
Mason moved to accept. Tracy second. All in favor.
2. Public Forum
No public comments.
3. Minutes of 1/15/2013
Mason moved to accept. Tracy second. All in favor.

4. Tar Sands Resolution – TEUC Members (5:10-5:20 pm)

Tracy: Who do we talk to regarding action pieces for the resolution? I would like to review statewide, not just Burlington.

Mason: Currently 90% of City of Burlington Retirement is invested in VPIX(sp?)

Tracy: We would like to review fuel purchases

Hartnett: Champlain Oil might be the City fuel supplier?

Mason: Please follow up with Pat Buteau into what fuel agreements that the City has with suppliers and request information about fleet management as a whole.

Hartnett: Would like to review use of personal vehicles for with regard to mileage costs.

Tracy: Burlington needs a transition plan away from fossil fuel consumption including a phase out and or purchasing of hybrid vehicles.

Norm Baldwin (DPW): DPW has been using different alternative fuel vehicle options like hybrid, CNG and Hydrogen vehicles and have experience regarding which was the best value in fuel savings and costs.

Hartnett: Please add Pat Buteau to next month's meeting agenda.

Mason: re-read the resolution.

Tracy: I will be tasked with making a draft list of questions for Pat Buteau. We have a City Council deadline of March 17th to report back. Our next TEUC meeting can be set for March 12, 2013. We will bring the information from our March 12, 2013 meeting back to the City Council on their March 17th, 2013 meeting. The Vancouver pipeline was the first project that was opposed. Next project is Keystone then upcoming threats in the works could be the Northeast Kingdom-Casco Bay-Portland, ME Project. This is our focus as tar sands may be threatening its future use of the existing pipeline. The CO-GEN projects such as McNeil will fall to the state legislature to lobby for stimulus funds to reclaim lost heat from these types of facilities to be used to heat other larger buildings like Fletcher Allen. The infrastructure would need to be put in place to do this.

Mason: The resolution asks the electric commission to report back on McNeil.

5. Sovernet Agreement, Winooski Bridge – Norm Baldwin, DPW, 5:20 pm

Baldwin: City needs utility agreements to allow utilities to occupy city infrastructure and existing conduit. The Winooski Bridge is half owned by Burlington and half by Winooski. The agreement is for a 20 year term. Public Works is supportive of the project.

Lawrence Lackey (Sovernet): Our Company is based in Bellows Falls, VT with offices in Winooski, VT. Started out as a dial-up company and have received federal grants to build 800 mile network of fiber from the U.S. Department of Commerce. This project is intended to make connects between the VT State College network and UVM with the bridge being the best option to cross the Winooski River.

Gene Bergman (City Attorney): I have some final details to add to section #9 that is mostly academic in nature. This agreement is fair for both parties. Would like the 1 time transactional fee adjusted, paid on or before July 1st, COLA adjustments will need to be hashed out.

Mason: The fee in the agreement seems really small.

Baldwin: The fee is a reasonable dollar amount.

Bergman: This fee is separate from the franchise fee ordinance and would like to have further and separate conversations with each company that would be interested in occupying city infrastructure in the future.

Baldwin: Sovernet charges others to allow them on their poles and the occupier will maintain their own infrastructure.

Lackey: Reasonable rent to pay for access to conduit examples are Fairpoint = \$1.87 per linear foot per year (about \$400 per year), BED = \$0.37 per linear foot per year approximately \$100 per year. Rates for these companies were set by the public service board. Having the fiber infrastructure might have possible benefit to the community .

Mason: BT is a potential competitor.

Lackey: BT uses some of the conduit on the bridge, 2 are occupied and 1 is vacant. Federal requirements state that telecom should have access to conduits.

Mason: Which board/department would this go to?

Baldwin: DPW, for engineering and excavation permits.

Bergman: The Maple Street project for Champlain College was administered through DPW for permitting.

Mason: Language speaks to use only and not installation, repair and use. Would the fees be pro rata for a 3rd based on the number of existing conduits? How many lines? Need to be more specific in the language.

Bergman: Only the use of the conduit is accounted for. BT is a separate City Department.

Tracy: 2nd conduit is used by non-telecom entity, who are they and what do they pay?

Lackey: Level 3 is occupying the 2nd conduit.

Baldwin: As new companies request conduits then a new agreement will be needed and looked at case by case. It is not clear if Level 3 have an agreement.

Hartnett: Is Level 3 agreement for "x" number of years?

Baldwin: DPW is unsure, we just came online with this current project.

Hartnett: Consistency is needed with all utilities.

Baldwin: Utilities are entitled to consideration and possibly be charged the franchise fee.

Hartnett: Please report back to TEUC next month regarding Level 3 information.

Baldwin: 50% of bridge is owned by the City of Burlington.

Bergman: Will the TEUC support the resolution? It should go to the City Council on 3/11/13.

Mason – Moved to sponsor resolution, Tracy – Second, All in favor.

6. Councilors' Updates

Tracy: Thanks to DPW on installing the walk/don't walk signal at Archibald & Winooski. Also, thank you for the stop sign on Decatur Street. More traffic calming requests are coming our way.

7. Adjourn

Mason move to adjourn. Tracy second. All in favor. Adjourned at 5:55 pm.

DRAFT